

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51 (Cancelled)

Claim 52 (Currently Amended) An absorbent pad for men comprising:

an absorbent member extending in a length direction, in a width direction that is generally transverse to the length direction, and in a height direction that is generally transverse to the length direction and generally transverse to the width direction;

a liquid permeable top sheet disposed above the absorbent member in the height direction;

a back sheet disposed below the absorbent member in the height direction;

first and second liquid impermeable gather sheets disposed above the top sheet in the height direction and having ends that face each other in the length direction so as to define an opening therebetween providing access to the top sheet in the height direction; and

~~an~~ a liquid impermeable auxiliary sheet for diffusing liquefied excrement disposed above the top sheet and below both of the first and second gather sheets in the height direction;

wherein the auxiliary sheet ~~has~~ extends across the opening from a first end disposed between and adjacent the top sheet and the ~~first-second~~ gather sheet in the height direction and a second end disposed between the top sheet and the ~~second-first~~ gather sheet in the height direction so as to block access to the top sheet via the opening in the height direction and to define a genital holding space surrounded by the top sheet, the ~~second-first~~ gather sheet and the auxiliary sheet.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, wherein the top sheet extends between first and second ends in the length direction and

wherein the first end of the auxiliary sheet is located between the first end of the top sheet and the ~~first~~second gather sheet in the height direction and wherein the second end of the auxiliary sheet is located on the other side of the opening relative to the first end of the top sheet in the length direction.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 53, wherein the second end of the auxiliary sheet is located between the opening and the second end of the top sheet in the length direction.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, wherein the ~~first~~second gather sheet is longer in the length direction than the ~~second~~first gather sheet so that the opening is not centered above the absorbent member in the length direction.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, wherein the auxiliary sheet is separate from the top sheet.

Claim 57 (Cancelled)

Claim 58 (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, wherein the absorbent member is rectangular.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, comprising an elastic member on the second end of the auxiliary sheet.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, comprising a pair of elastic members on the end of the ~~first~~second gather sheet.

Application No. 10/551,827
Amendment Dated November 2, 2009
Reply to Office Action of September 1, 2009

Claim 61 (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad for men according to claim 52, comprising an elastic member provided on the end of the ~~second~~first gather sheet.